

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is respectfully requested.

As discussed at the interview of June 15, the primary reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,253,242) discloses a player in which the two heads reading the two sides of a disc are interlocked. As a result, the two heads are always reading exactly the same physical location or data segment on both sides of the disc. At col. 6 lines 53-63 a mention is made of the two heads reading two different segments S_j' and S_j. However, the reason for this is that the two sides are rotationally offset during manufacture. As a result the two heads are reading two data segments at the identical physical location however, because of this rotation, their address is offset by a fixed amount. However, the player is still able to read only data from exactly the same physical location.

On the other hand, in the present invention, the two heads are independently controlled so that each head can be positioned independently and provide random access to the respective data on either side. This feature of the invention is described in the specification at page 6, starting on the 5th line from the bottom and the paragraph at the top of page 11. The cited reference does not have the capability of providing this function.


In addition, there are several other claims that also define features in the invention that are not found in the prior art. More specifically, the claimed player can read the layers in a predetermined sequence starting from side 1 and ending on side 2,

as illustrated in Figs. 1E- 1I or even starting on side 1, then going on to side 2 and then back to side 1, as shown in Fig. 1J, all being performed virtually seamlessly. This feature is described by claims 5 ,6, 7,13, 14,16,18, 20, 22 and is not disclosed in any of the references.

Another feature pertains to the unique features of the disc. As discussed at length in the application, standard discs are structured so that they are always turned in one direction because a player will access only one side or the other. However, the disc presented herein can be rotated in one direction if one side is up, and in the other direction is if the second side is up. Therefore, as indicated in claim 23, before a disc is played, a determination is made on the direction in which the disc is to be played. None of the references disclose such a feature.

Respectfully submitted,

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